

2023 BIENNIAL REPORT

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

BIENNIAL REPORT 2023

to the people of Montana

Governor Greg Gianforte
Director Brian Gootkin

Creating a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment.





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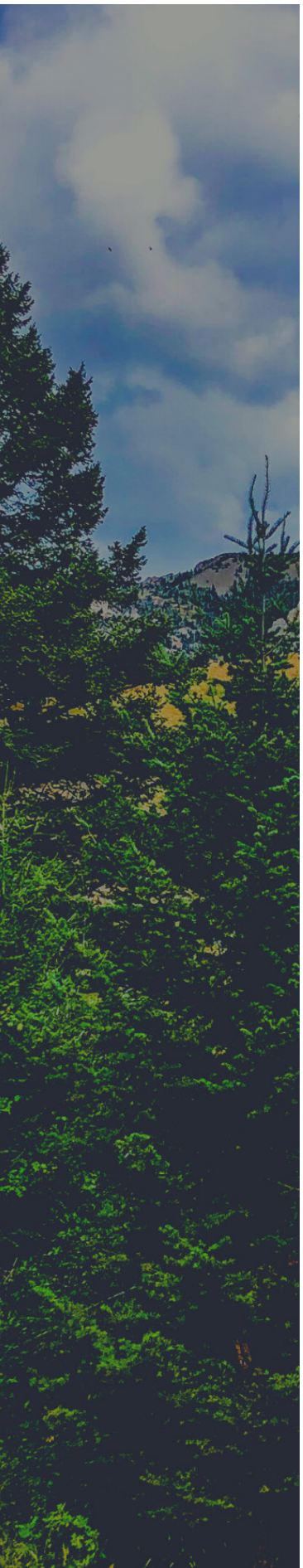
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MESSAGE FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

The past biennium has been a whirlwind for me, as director, and one of overall change for the Montana Department of Corrections. When folks describe the learning curve at the DOC as being like drinking from a firehose, I now know that to be true. That said, I jumped into my assignment at this department with both feet and began working with staff to identify areas we could improve and develop a vision for how we can take the services we provide to Montanans to the next level.

Guided by the department's new mission of "Creating a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment," we undertook a restructure to realign our divisions under the department's main functions: Director's Office, Central Services, Programs and Rehabilitation, and Public Safety. We hired a team of skilled professionals to serve as chief executive officers over those areas, and a chief financial officer to ensure the steadfast stewardship of tax dollars. This leadership team is taking a crucial role in bringing the department together as a team as we move toward achieving the strategic goals we have established for the next biennium and farther into the future.

The department's staff has excelled in its efforts to meet the DOC's responsibility to Montanans in terms of keeping the public, staff, and the offender population safe, and ensuring we provide offenders with the tools they need to be successful when they return to Montana communities. Successes in these areas are wide and varied and range from managing COVID-19 in our secure facilities; to providing inmates with greater access to HiSET and meaningful educational/vocational programming; to putting more Probation and Parole officers in communities throughout the state; to ensuring caring, trauma-informed support to victims of crime; and much more.

These successes have not come without roadblocks. We continue to seek ways to address aging infrastructure; find solutions to recruiting and retaining key staff at our facilities; and manage inflation and supply chain issues. But we are up for the challenge and are working with the Governor's Office, community stakeholders, and others to tackle these challenges.

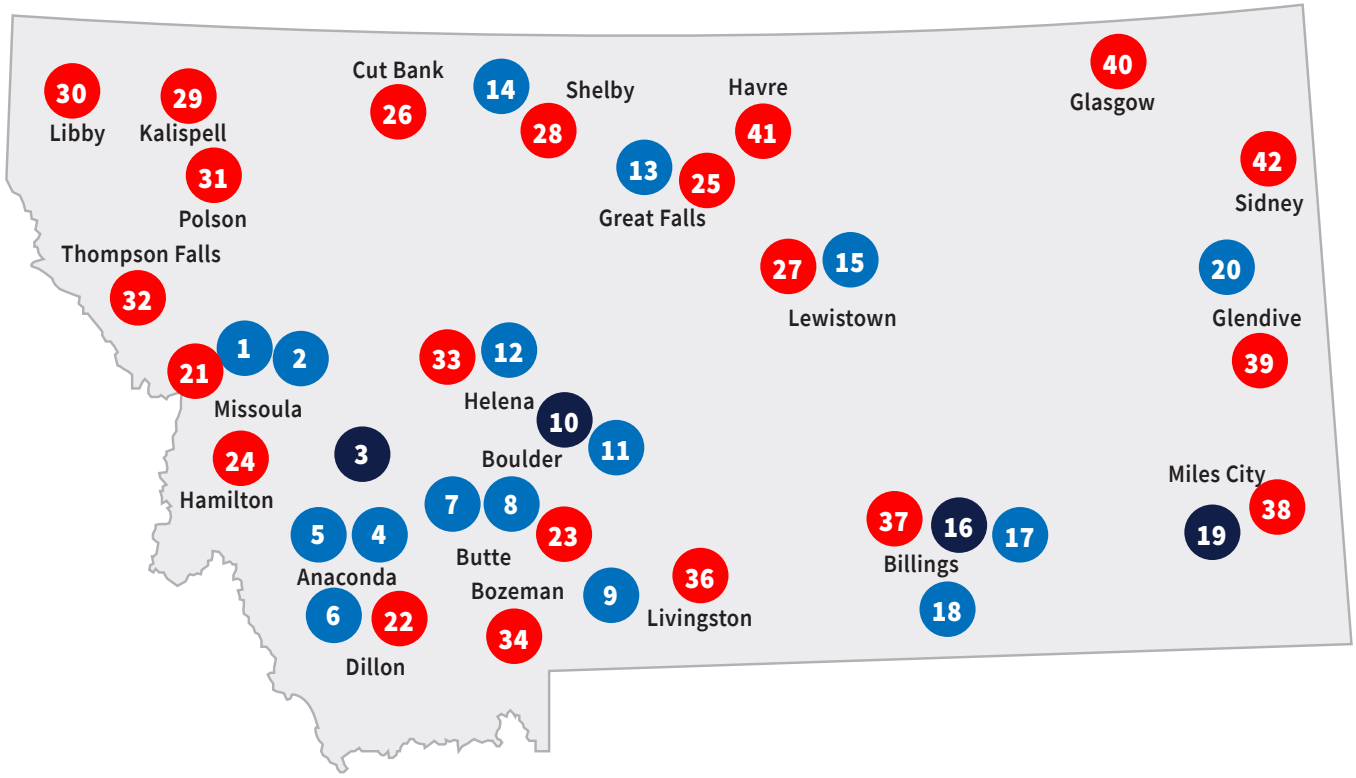
If there's one thing I have learned about the people who work at the department, it's that they are deeply committed to the work they do and aren't daunted by whatever barriers may pop up. I am so proud of the progress we have made over the past two years, and I'm excited to see what all we can accomplish as we work toward our strategic goals as "one DOC."

To our staff, thank you. And to legislators, community partners, and members of the public, I hope this report provides you with a glimpse at what the Department of Corrections does to keep Montana safe each and every day.

Director Brian M. Gootkin



OFFICES AND FACILITIES MAP



1 Missoula Assessment & Sanction Center (MASC)

2 Missoula Prerelease Center

3 Montana State Prison

4 WATCh West – Warm Springs

5 Connections Corrections Program (CCP West)

6 Sanction, Treatment, Assessment & Revocation Center (START)

7 Butte Prerelease Center

8 Connections Corrections Program (CCP East)

9 Gallatin County Reentry Program

10 Riverside Special Needs Unit

11 Elkhorn Treatment Center

12 Helena Prerelease Center

13 Great Falls Prerelease Center

14 Crossroads Correctional Center

15 Nexus Treatment Center

16 Montana Women's Prison

17 Alpha House Prerelease Center

18 Passages:
- Prerelease Center
- Assessment, Sanction & Revocation Center (ASRC)
- Alcohol & Drug Treatment (ADT)

19 Pine Hills Correctional Facility – Youth & Adult :
- Young Adult Treatment Center
- Assessment Center
- Alcohol & Drug Treatment (ADT)
- Jail Hold Unit

20 Dawson County Correctional Facility

21 Missoula P&P Office

22 Anaconda P&P Office

23 Butte P&P Office

24 Hamilton P&P Office

25 Great Falls P&P Office

26 Cut Bank P&P Office

27 Lewistown P&P Office

28 Shelby P&P Office

29 Kalispell P&P Office

30 Libby P&P Office

31 Polson P&P Office

32 Thompson Falls P&P Office

33 Helena P&P Office

34 Bozeman P&P Office

35 Dillon P&P Office

36 Livingston P&P Office

37 Billings P&P Office

38 Miles City P&P Office

39 Glendive P&P Office

40 Glasgow P&P Office

41 Havre P&P Office

42 Sidney P&P Office

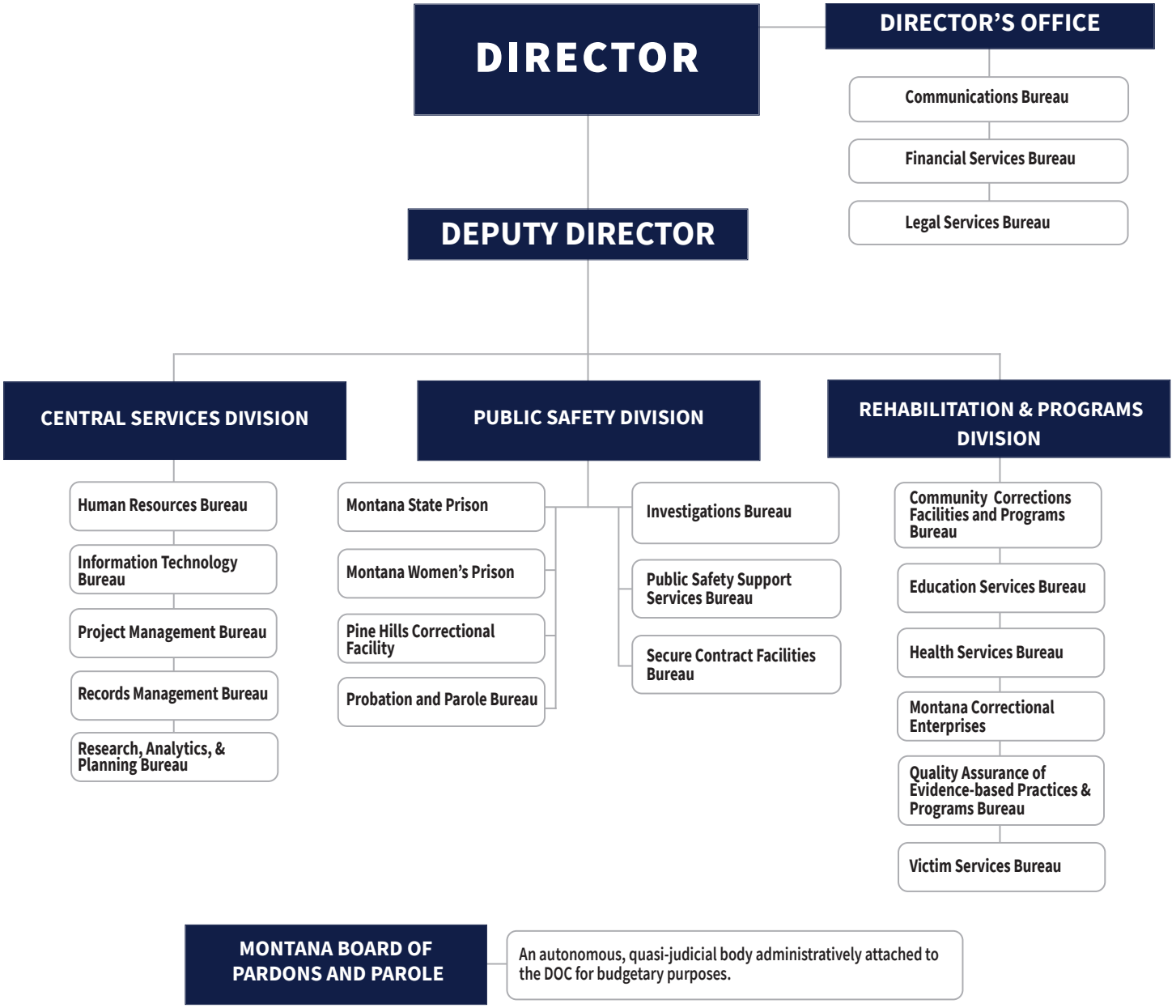
State - owned Facility

Contracted Facility

Probation & Parole Offices

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DOC STRATEGIC REORGANIZATION: BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

During the last biennium, the DOC embarked on a journey to ensure a solid foundation for the effective and efficient operation of the department, underscored by its new mission:

Creating a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment.

Key elements of this effort included:

1) Strategically aligning department functions across four major divisions – the Director's Office, Central Services, Public Safety, and Rehabilitation and Programs; and

2) Hiring chief executive officers to lead each of the major divisions and a hiring a chief financial officer.

"This reorganization aligned the major functions of the department under our division chiefs and the CFO who report to the director and deputy director," said DOC Director Brian Gootkin. "The result of this change has been a higher level of cohesiveness that allows us to operate as 'one DOC,' and better serve all Montanans."

Strategic realignments also occurred within each of the three divisions to foster better collaboration and ensure consistency to achieve the department's mission. For example, all DOC training efforts, offender transportation management, and investigations and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) functions were centralized within the Public Safety Division. Additionally, all DOC offender general and vocational education efforts were combined into a single department-wide educational services bureau.

New positions related to the changes were repurposed from existing vacancies affecting no net increase in full-time employees, nor budget. A total of 26 positions were repurposed.

"The higher level of continuity resulting from these changes allows us to work smarter and ensure greater equity among the department's different areas and facilities," Gootkin said. "That benefits everyone involved — the public, DOC staff, and the offenders."

Department Goals

Along with the agency restructuring came new goals to direct the department's efforts through the upcoming biennium.

The DOC's steering committee conducted strategic planning which identified three main areas of focus for work over the next two years:

- ***DOC cultural growth.***
- ***System improvements in the areas of programs and services.***
- ***Infrastructure improvements in the areas of physical buildings, IT, and data.***





DOC Strategic Reorganization cont.

DOC Cultural Growth

To facilitate the department's commitment to operating as 'one DOC,' it embarked on an effort to transform its work culture.

Through a contract with Collaborative Safety, employees at every level are participating in training which encourages a shift toward a culture of accountability, allowing for deeper discussion of underlying, systemic issues.

"At the DOC, our people are our strength and the key to our success," said Deputy Director Cynthia Wolken. "By ensuring they feel supported we can leverage their knowledge and move forward to achieve organizational outcomes."

The department is also in the process of developing an agency-wide training plan to ensure consistency, provide employees with the skills necessary to do their jobs effectively, and expand their opportunities within the DOC.

System Improvements

The DOC's strategic planning efforts directed renewed focus on programming for inmates in the name of better structure and continuity.

The department established an education advisory panel – including internal and external stakeholders – to define, document, and implement a two-year general and vocational education plan for the Montana correctional system. Members of the panel will identify current system strengths, opportunities for expansion, processes for measuring progress on achieving establish goals, and ultimately reporting on that success.

Inmates at DOC facilities will also be able to take advantage of new, evidence-based programming. The department is in the process of implementing the Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM) for males and Women Offender Correctional Program (WOCP) in secure care. This tool will ensure greater consistency and efficiency for all facilities when assessing individuals. The ICPM integrates multiple programs into one to address all criminogenic aspects of the Risk – Needs – Responsivity Model, allowing inmates to complete one program to address a variety of needs simultaneously and meet multiple judgement requirements.

"The DOC has always been dedicated to providing inmates the programming they need to be successful while they are in our facilities, and more importantly, when they return to Montana communities," said Scott Eychner, the department's chief executive officer for Rehabilitation and Programs. "These key changes will allow DOC staff to better direct their efforts related to programming to provide the most benefit to our inmate population."

DOC Strategic Reorganization cont.

Infrastructure Improvements

The department is looking toward improving its infrastructure in order to better support all levels of its operation, and that doesn't just mean buildings. This goal extends to the way the department collects and manages its data, and ultimately, measures effectiveness at achieving its mission.

Make no mistake — addressing the DOC's ailing physical infrastructure is inevitable, and the department continues to work closely with the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning on that challenge. In fact, almost $200 million in physical infrastructure requests were included in Governor Gianforte's proposed budget and will be considered by the 2023 Montana Legislature. In addition projects focused on allowing more efficient collection of data and realigning the manner in which the department shares that information are already in the works.

First, to ensure the enhanced availability of data to the department, stakeholders, and the public, the department embarked on making preparations to search for a vendor to implement a new offender management system (OMS) to replace the aging, DOC-developed Offender Management Information System (OMIS). A consultant has been retained to assist with the preparation of an RFP. The department will require legislative support to move to the next stage of hiring a vendor to implement the OMS system.

In order to better meet the needs of stakeholders and measure success, the DOC will use multiple measures of recidivism beginning with the FY22 cohort of inmates.

Prison recidivism - will consider rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration over the three-year period following release from prison.

Non-prison recidivism - will consider rearrest, reconviction, revocation, and absconding, and will monitor throughout the time period an offender is on active supervision and the three-year period after exiting the program.

"It's important for the DOC as an agency to be able to measure the efficacy of its efforts to better direct future activities," said John Daugherty, the department's chief executive officer of Central Services. "And it's also crucial for us to be able to reinforce our decisions with the appropriate data and communicate that to our stakeholders."









POPULATION OVERVIEW

Interested in more DOC data? View data dashboards at **COR.MT.GOV.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ADULT OFFENDERS: DAILY POPULATION

	Number	Percent Total
Secure Facilities	2734	*19.6%*
Alt-Secure Facilities	1599	*11.5%*
Treatment Centers	*418*	
Assessment & Sanction Centers	*393*	
Prerelease Centers	*788*	
Probation and Parole	9593	*68.9%*
Total	**13926**	**100%**

About 80 percent of offenders in Montana are supervised in the community by Probation and Parole officers or at community facilities including assessment, sanction, treatment, and prerelease centers.

Citation: Daily Population Report Dashboard, Montana Department of Corrections. Data extract for June 30, 2022, accessed on 11/10/2022.

RECIDIVISM

	Female FY15	Male FY15	Female FY16	Male FY16	Female FY17	Male FY17	Female FY18	Male FY18	Female FY19	Male FY19
Total Recidivism Rate	*25.0%*	*38.6%*	*27.9%*	*38.0%*	*32.3%*	*39.1%*	*31.5%*	*38.8%*	*31.6%*	*37.6%*
Revocation (Violation)	*17.7%*	*27.6%*	*19.5%*	*25.7%*	*21.9%*	*25.5%*	*19.7%*	*25.3%*	*19.8%*	*24.2%*
Reincarceration (New Crime)	*7.3%*	*11.0%*	*8.4%*	*12.3%*	*10.3%*	*13.6%*	*11.8%*	*13.5%*	*11.9%*	*13.4%*
Overall	***36.6%***		***36.6%***		***38.2%***		***37.8%***		***36.8%***	

In relation to the chart above, recidivism is defined as a return to prison, for any reason, within three years of leaving. Montana's recidivism rate for the FY 19 cohort was 36.8 percent as compared with the national rate of 44 percent. The department has identified a new definition of recidivism (See Reorganization section) that allows for consideration of multiple measures beginning with the FY22 cohort of inmates.

TOP 10 OFFENSES FOR MALE AND FEMALE OFFENDERS FY2022

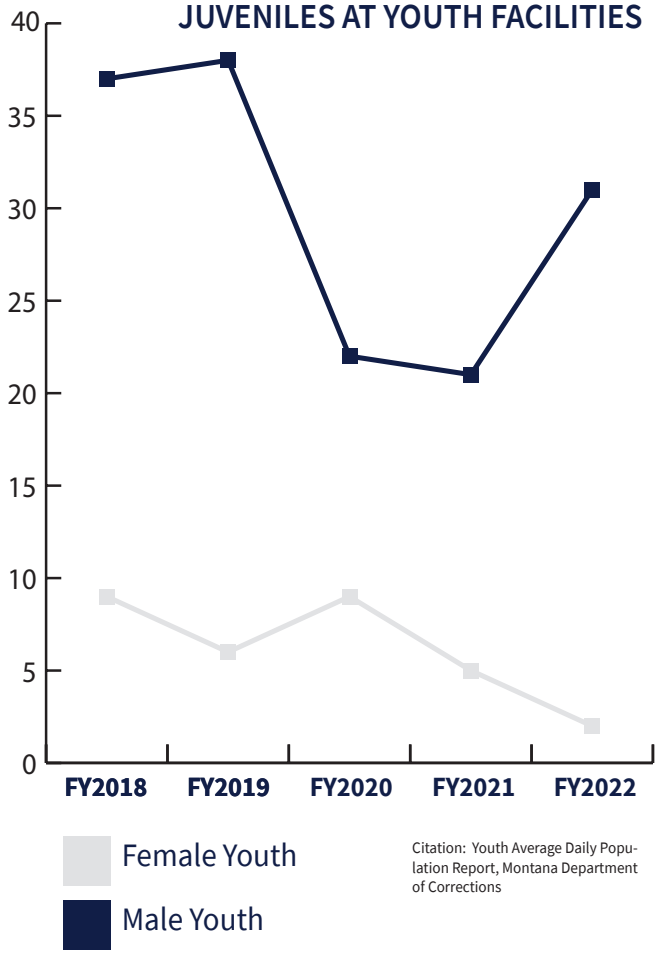
	Males	Total
1	Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs	*1112*
2	Criminal Endangerment	*597*
3	Theft	*457*
4	Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs -- Penalty for Fourth or Subsequent Offense	*379*
5	Burglary	*201*
6	Assault With a Weapon	*182*
7	Partner/Family Member Assault	*121*
8	Strangulation of a Partner or Family Member	*119*
9	Sexual Intercourse Without Consent	*93*
10	Criminal Mischief	*91*

	Females	Total
1	Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs	*622*
2	Criminal Endangerment	*148*
3	Theft	*124*
4	Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs -- Penalty for Fourth or Subsequent Offense	*70*
5	Criminal Child Endangerment	*50*
6	Burglary	*49*
7	Criminal Possession with Intent to Distribute	*38*
8	Escape	*30*
9	Assault On Peace Officer	*25*
10	Assault With A Weapon	*24*

Citation: Top Ten Offenses and Counts by County/Sentence Type, Offense and Sentencing Data Dashboard, Montana Department of Corrections. Data extract for FY2022, accessed on 11/10/2022

Population Overview cont.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION OF JUVENILES AT YOUTH FACILITIES



Citation: Youth Average Daily Population Report, Montana Department of Corrections

While the department's juvenile male population saw a decline beginning in FY 19, it observed an increase in commitments from the courts in FY 22. The number of male juveniles at Pine Hills Correctional Facility increased from 21 in FY 21 to 31 in FY 22. Juvenile female commitments have continued to decline for the past two fiscal years.

SECURE FACILITY DEATH BY AGE/CAUSE SUMMARY, FY2018-FY2022

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Accident	0	0	2	0	2	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Causes	0	1	1	2	22	33
Suicide	0	2	2	3	0	1
Total	**0**	**3**	**5**	**5**	**24**	**34**
Overall	**71**					

Includes data for the following locations: CCC, DCCF, LINF, MSP, MWP, RSNU
Data obtained from the Mortality in Corrections Dashboard, DOC Internal Tableau Folder on 11/23/2022

The majority of deaths in DOC or DOC-contracted prisons are from natural causes and occur in individuals 55 years or older. This is illustrative of the department's aging prison population.

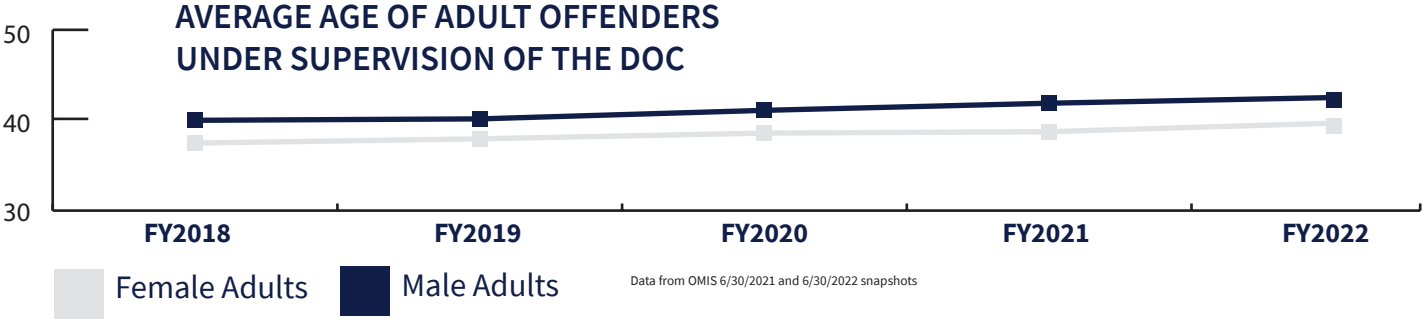
RACE DISTRIBUTION OVERALL

	Number	% of Total
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2,835	19.8%
Asian or Pacific Islander	76	0.5%
Black	319	2.2%
White	11,060	77.4%
Total	**14,290**	**100%**

Data based on population defined in the Population Dashboard for 6/30/2022
These numbers do not include individuals on Interstate Compact

Race distribution of offenders under the supervision of the DOC is predominantly white (77.4 percent) and American Indian or Alaskan Native (19.8 percent). The representation of American Indians is high in this population considering that American Indians make up 6.6 percent of Montana's total population (U.S. Census). In FY 22, the American Indian population in the department's male prisons was 21.2 percent, and 37 percent in Montana Women's Prison.

AVERAGE AGE OF ADULT OFFENDERS UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE DOC



Data from OMIS 6/30/2021 and 6/30/2022 snapshots

The average age of all offenders under the supervision of the DOC is gradually increasing. In FY 22, the male average age is 41.5 as compared with 39.9 five years ago. The average age of the female population in FY 22 was 39.7 as compared with 38.3 five years ago. As the average age increases in DOC prisons, so do individual's needs related to health care and more.



DOC BUDGET

As part of the many efficiency efforts undertaken within the Montana Department of Corrections over the past biennium, the department focused much energy on streamlining its financial practices under its new chief financial officer.

In keeping with the realignment of the agency's functions into four main areas, the department's Financial Services Bureau followed suit by streamlining the department's budgetary structure. This was accomplished by consolidating budgetary organizations and removing unnecessary ones to allow for more efficient stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

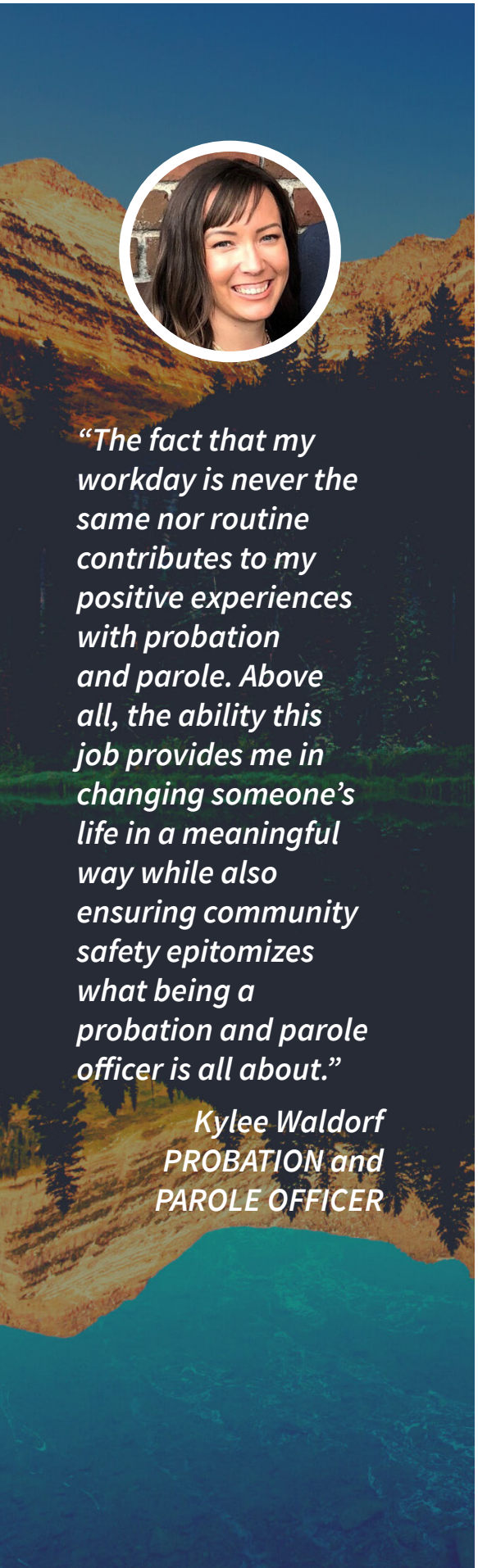
Despite the efforts mentioned above and more, financial challenges facing the department are plentiful moving forward, with aging infrastructure - both physical and technological – and employee compensation topping that list.

Buildings and core infrastructure at Montana State Prison are in dire condition. A 2020 review by a private architectural and engineering team found that the buildings suffer from extensive deferred maintenance as well as the results of 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week hard use. In addition, the aged utility infrastructure (water, sanitary waste, and roads) is stressed

FY2022 DOC BUDGET

Program Name	Budget	Expended	Percent Expended
Board of Pardons and Parole	*1,011,405*	*1,011,405*	*100.0%*
Director's Office CSD	*16,880,913*	*15,946,926*	*94.5%*
Public Safety	*117,610,213*	*116,183,799*	*98.8%*
Rehabilitation and Programs	*83,321,362*	*79,220,591*	*95.1%*
Total	***218,823,892***	***212,362,721***	***97.0%***





DOC Budget cont.

at the current offender capacity, with parts and staff to work on the systems difficult to find.

The department's technology infrastructure also requires upgrades to support modern security systems to ensure a safe and efficient environment for DOC staff and inmates, and allow inmates to access educational opportunities to help them be successful when they return to Montana communities.

Plus, the DOC must purchase and implement a new Offender Management System (OMS) to replace its outdated, in-house system, the Offender Management Information System (OMIS). While OMIS has served the department well for many years, it is becoming more difficult to hire staff who can maintain it, and its nimbleness in terms of data presentation is waning.

Finally, as its incarcerated offender population continues to rise above capacity at its prison facilities across the board, the DOC struggles to keep its jail population below 250 beds. As such, the agency has been unable to access contingency funding attached by the Montana Legislature to that jail population count for the last three months of FY22 and thus far in FY23.

The DOC is dedicated to continuing its work with the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning and Montana legislators to deliver solutions to the challenges ahead.

DOC Receives $2 Million in ARPA Funds to Improve Water System at MSP

In 2021, the Montana Department of Corrections was awarded $2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to improve the water supply system serving Montana State Prison.

The project – which will focus on repairing on-premise water wells – ranked 60 out of 241 grant requests submitted in the DNRC ARPA Round 1 Competitive Grant process.

Originally, the grant request was for $10.6 million to not only repair the on-premise water wells, but to improve the water delivery system allowing for increased reliability, safety, and efficiency. However, awards in the first round of the process were capped at $2 million.

"The department is extremely thankful for the funding that will allow us to make these critical repairs to the water system," said John Daugherty, the DOC's chief executive officer of Central Services. "We're working with the Montana Department of Administration's Architecture and Engineering Division to revise the project accordingly."



DIRECTOR'S OFFICE/ CENTRAL SERVICES DIVISION

Director's Office

- *Director*
- *Deputy Director*
- *Communications (including Native American Liaison)*
- *Financial Services*
- *Legal*

Central Services Division

- *Human Resources*
- *Information Technology*
- *Project Management*
- *Records Management*
- *Research, Analytics and Planning*

Bureaus within the Director's Office and Central Services Division are largely concentrated on the behind-the-scenes operation of the Montana Department of Corrections. Much of this area's work during the biennium focused on improving transparency and communications for the department.

DOC enhances internet access in secure facilities for educational, job opportunities

The DOC is always looking for ways to help inmates prepare to reenter Montana communities through educational opportunities, life skills, and job preparedness. To ensure inmates have the tools they need to be successful in these pursuits, the department redesigned the internet access capabilities of the Inmate Computer Network (ICON).

Previously, internet access for inmates in secure facilities was limited for safety and security reasons. But, as life becomes increasingly digitally based, the DOC recognized the need to find safe ways for inmates to access the internet. The ICON grants inmates extended access while ensuring safety and security in Montana prisons.

> *"This is a great opportunity to help inmates get a jump start on reentering Montana communities or to take advantage of higher education classes while under our supervision," DOC Director Brian Gootkin said. "We want to make sure staff and employees are safe in our secure facilities, but we also know how important it is for individuals to complete classwork and be able to apply for jobs before leaving. The work the DOC staff and the Montana Department of Administration put into this project to ensure a safe balance is impressive."*





"Corrections is an evolving field and behavior change is possible, if done well. The work I do has provided incredible challenges and the most rewarding growth I have ever experienced."

Erika Wimmer
Quality Assurance
Bureau Chief

Director's Office/Central Services Division cont.

Discussions about updating the inmate network at secure facilities began at the end of 2021. The DOC's IT Department worked with DOA to identify what type of access the department should offer to inmates. After that, the redesign focused on reducing barriers within the network.

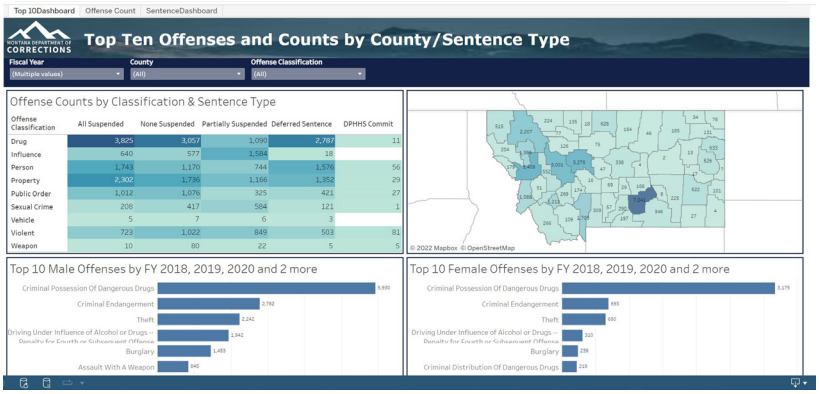
Today, inmates are using the system to participate in college classes through Second Chance Pell Grants and more.

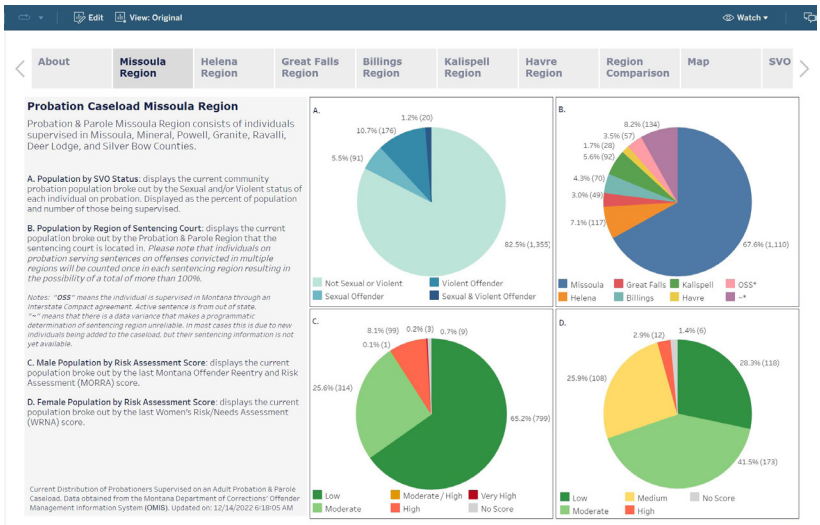
Sharing information through data dashboards

In an effort to add a new level of transparency and accountability to the work the DOC performs, the department developed 25 internal and external data dashboards to reflect and help measure data over the biennium.

Members of the public can view dashboards illustrating offender populations, offense and sentencing data, and restitution collection.

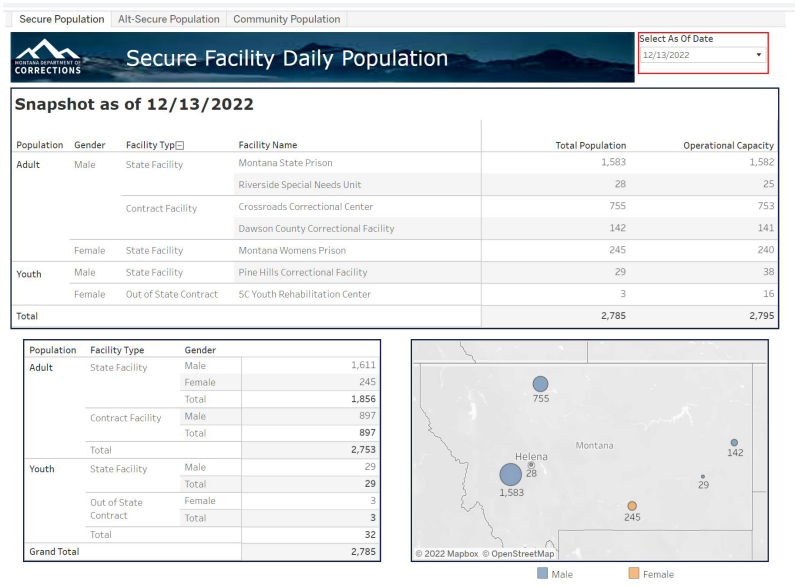
Internally, users can access dashboards allowing them to view information about where offenders in Montana communities were sentenced, Probation and Parole caseloads, jail holds, recidivism, and more.





Director's Office/Central Services Division cont.

"These dashboards are useful for DOC employees and members of the public to access information that would previously have required special requests from our data team," said John Daugherty, the department's chief executive officer of Central Services. "We're developing more dashboards on a regular basis that will allow us to better examine the work we are doing and identify areas in which we can improve. The numbers tell a story that helps us determine the department's next steps."



Constituent Services manager lends a helping hand

As part of the department reorganization that occurred in 2021, the DOC repurposed a position to create a Constituent Services manager position within the Communications Bureau.

"The agency has always been responsive to the needs of the public, but thanks to the constituent services manager, there is now someone dedicated to answering questions, researching issues, and bringing to light areas where the department can improve its communication," said DOC Director Brian Gootkin. "We're proud to provide a dedicated, knowledgeable person to lend a helping hand to family members and friends of DOC-involved individuals, and help citizens better understand the work we do."

The purpose of the constituent services manager is not to circumvent policies and procedures in place at DOC facilities for inmates to communicate with staff members, file grievances, and request medical or behavioral health care, but instead, to provide additional support to family and friends of inmates when needed.

In the 2022 calendar year, the department's constituent services manager has responded to more than 500 requests, not counting those that are referrals to other DOC staff or "pass-through" requests to other agencies.





PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

The Public Safety Division is the Montana Department of Corrections' largest division with 1,010 positions. It is charged with maintaining public safety through the safe and secure care of inmates in prisons, and supervision and support of offenders in Montana communities. It includes the following bureaus.

- *Investigations*
- *Montana State Prison*
- *Montana Women's Prison*
- *Pine Hills Correctional Facility*
- *Probation and Parole*
- *Public Safety Support Services*
- *Secure Contract Facilities*

Division Reorganization

In line with the DOC's efforts to create a more streamlined, efficient, and consistent manner of operation, Public Safety Division Chief Executive Officer Jim Anderson undertook a significant reorganization of the division in the spring of 2022.

To achieve a greater level of continuity, functions that had previously been managed largely by individual bureaus, including training, transportation, grievances, and Prison Rape Elimination Act functions, were combined on the department-wide level.

In addition, the restructure positioned the DOC to have greater emphasis on quality assurance in its public safety operations by repurposing a position to serve as a Probation and Parole Quality Assurance manager. The position is centered on evaluating P&P practices and data on an ongoing basis to seek new and innovative methods for the DOC to move the needle related to recidivism within the DOC population.

Also, Anderson refocused one of the department's quality assurance positions to concentrate on facility compliance. The purpose of the position and its associated team is to develop solutions to compliance issues and ensure necessary changes are made to bring the facilities back into compliance.

"We're all very excited about the direction the department is

Public Safety Division cont.

moving," Anderson said. "We are always striving to do better and this reorganization within the division allows us the opportunity to focus on that goal as a unified team."

Addition of Fourteen Probation and Parole Officers, PSI Writers State-wide

Thanks to the support of the Governor's Office and legislators in the 2021 Montana Legislative Session, the DOC received funding to onboard 14 new Probation and Parole positions at offices throughout the state over the biennium.

The benefit of the hires for Montana citizens is multi-faceted:

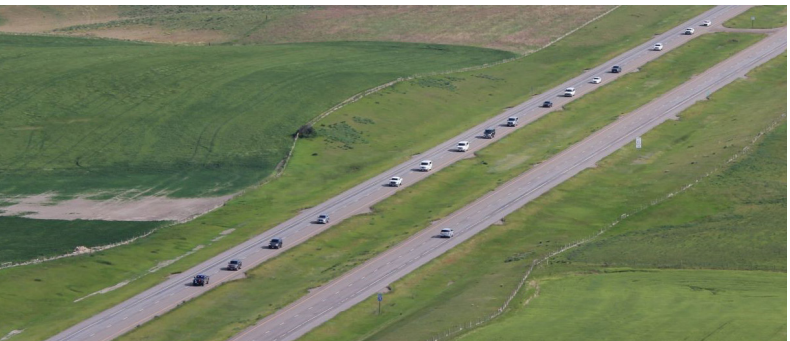
These positions include:

City	#P&P Officers	#of PSI Writers
Billings	*5*	*1*
Great Falls	*1*	*1*
Helena	*2*	*0*
Kalispell	*1*	*0*
Missoula	*1*	*1*
Miles City	*0*	*1*

Having more PSI writers to prepare reports allows P&P officers to spend less time working on PSIs and dedicate their efforts to assisting the almost 10,000 offenders assigned to their supervision. In addition, bringing on more P&P officers provides for more manageable caseloads for P&P officers throughout the state.

DOC, U.S. Marshals Service Transport Inmates as Part of Great Falls Regional Prison Swap

Local, state, and federal correctional and law enforcement agencies from throughout Montana worked together in June 2021 to swap DOC inmates and U.S. Marshals Service detainees between Crossroads Correctional Center and Great Falls Regional Prison.



The move was a culmination of a plan announced in early 2021 following an order by President Biden for the U.S. Department of Justice to phase out its contracts with private prison companies, like CoreCivic, which owns and operates Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby.



"Cascade County saw this as an opportunity to help the U.S. Marshals Service respond to the president's order, while at the same time, alleviating overcrowding at GFRP by moving Montana Department of Corrections' inmates to Crossroads," Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter said. "The U.S. Marshals have fewer detainees than the DOC, allowing us to use that space to keep more people who pose a danger to our community off the streets."

DOC Director Brian Gootkin agreed ending the state's contract with Cascade County for 152 beds at GFRP was in the best interest of all parties, including the inmates. The 2021 Montana Legislature agreed to end the regional prison contract with Cascade County, allowing the move to take place.

"Crossroads has more services available related to recreation space, education, behavioral health, religious offerings and more," Gootkin said. "It's key to the department's mission that we create a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation and empowerment. This collaborative agreement definitely furthers that."

The DOC moved 65 DOC inmates to Crossroads.

This swap also allowed for the resolution of an ongoing lawsuit with Cascade County.

Public Safety Division cont.

Technology Updates Improve Safety at DOC Facilities

Employee and inmate safety at Montana Department of Corrections' secure facilities is a top priority for the department; to support that, the department completed a much-needed upgrade of its radio system at its three secure facilities in 2021.

The radios were purchased for Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison and Pine Hills Correctional Facility using $1.7 million in general fund money. Other technology updates, funded through the CARES Act, included body scanners and mail scanners.

At MSP, the new radios have been well received. According to Warden Jim Salmonsen, radios have a life expectancy of 10 years, and the old radios were 12-year-old analog radios. In fact, in some areas of the Restricted Housing Unit (RHU) and Secure Adjustment Unit (SAU), the old radios could not reliably transmit through the buildings' concrete and metal.

"The radios are a safety improvement so our staff can be in communication with each other and not worry about their radios malfunctioning," he said. "This is a newer technology, and this brings it up to a more modern technology that will be more useful and help with safety and security."

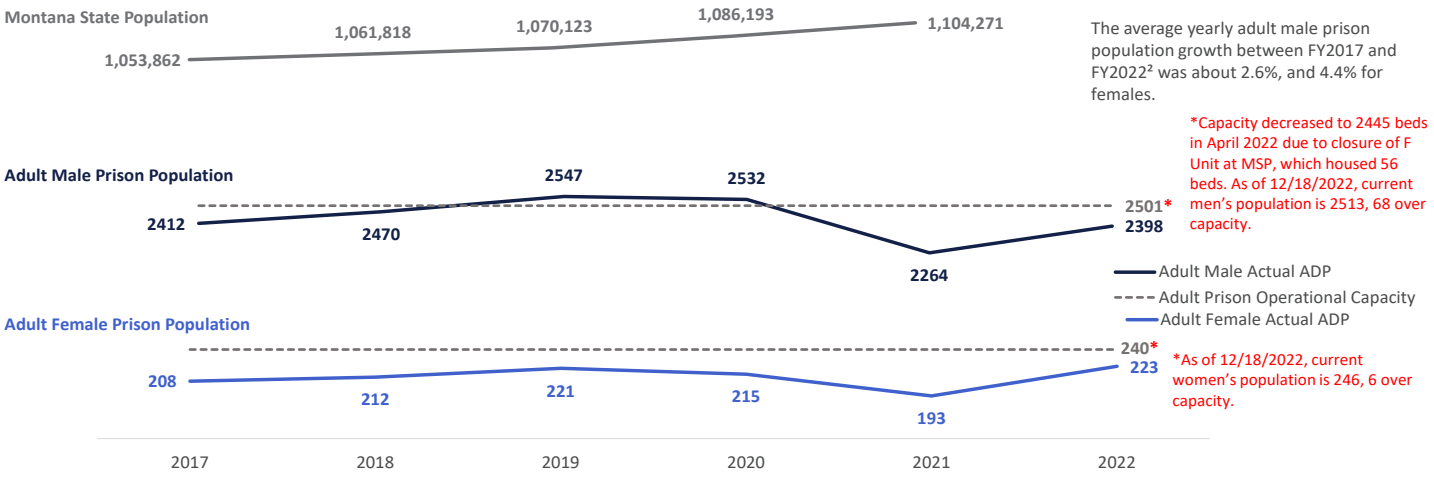
Along with the new radios, the DOC is partnered with the Montana Department of Justice to install a repeater radio, allowing the DOC's facilities to connect with the state trunking network. This trunking network will allow the DOC's secure facilities (MSP, Montana Women's Prison, Pine Hills Correctional Facility) to communicate more seamlessly on the radios.



MONTANA ADULT MALE AND FEMALE PRISON POPULATION GROWTH COMPARED TO STATE POPULATION GROWTH FROM FY2017-FY2022

Montana's general population growth for 2021 was 1.7% (yoy)[1], with an average yearly growth of 1.2% for the previous five years.

The average yearly adult male prison population growth between FY2017 and FY2022[2] was about 2.6%, and 4.4% for females.



*Capacity decreased to 2445 beds in April 2022 due to closure of F Unit at MSP, which housed 56 beds. As of 12/18/2022, current men's population is 2513, 68 over capacity.

*As of 12/18/2022, current women's population is 246, 6 over capacity.

[1]yoy= Year over year, calculation for the percent difference, or growth, in the population between two years.

[2]Average yearly prison population growth was calculated using data from FY2017-FY2020 and FY2022. FY2021 yoy growth was excluded from the calculation because of the extreme yoy percentage, due to the effects of COVID.

Data Sources: Adult Average Daily Population for FY 2022 and FY2023, calculated from the Montana Department of Corrections' Offender Management Information System (OMIS), 10/7/2022.

Population total and intercensal tables, Population and Housing Unit Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau. Year over year (yoy) represents numeric and percent differences between current year and prior year population. Data accessed from Montana Department of Commerce, Census and Economic Information Center at https://dataportal.mt.gov/t/DOC/views/CEIC_PEP_POPULATION_SFE/Table?%3Aorigin=card_share_link&%3Aembed=y, on 12/9/2022.

Male and female prison populations in Montana are experiencing an upward trend that is placing pressure on facility capacities. This correlates with the upward trend in Montana's overall population growth.



DOC: STAFFING CHALLENGES

The Montana Department of Corrections took a close look at its recruitment and retention efforts in the last biennium as its prisons — like others throughout the nation — were plagued by chronic understaffing.

While all DOC-run and contracted facilities faced this challenge at some point over the past couple of years, the situation became critical at Montana State Prison in 2022 when correctional officer vacancy rates pushed 40 percent. This problem was exacerbated by the fact that some MSP correctional officers were on leave, light duty, etc.

"We're looking for correctional officers, nurses, food service workers, and more," Director Brian Gootkin said. "This challenge didn't appear overnight, and we're not going to solve it overnight either. Instead, we're leaving no stone unturned in terms of recruitment, and we're also working hard to retain the valuable employees we have."

Recognizing that **correctional officer pay** is a barrier to retaining and attracting employees to work in DOC facilities, the agency delivered a well-deserved $2/hr pay increase to correctional officers at MSP and $1/hr increase to correctional officers at Montana Women's Prison and Pine Hills Correctional Facility. The agency also pledged to champion another $2/hr for MSP correctional officers, and a $3/hr increase for correctional officers at Montana Women's Prison and Pine Hills Correctional Facility (to bring their pay in line with MSP), during the 2023 Montana Legislative Session. In addition, Governor Gianforte's proposed budget included additional pay increases for state employees.



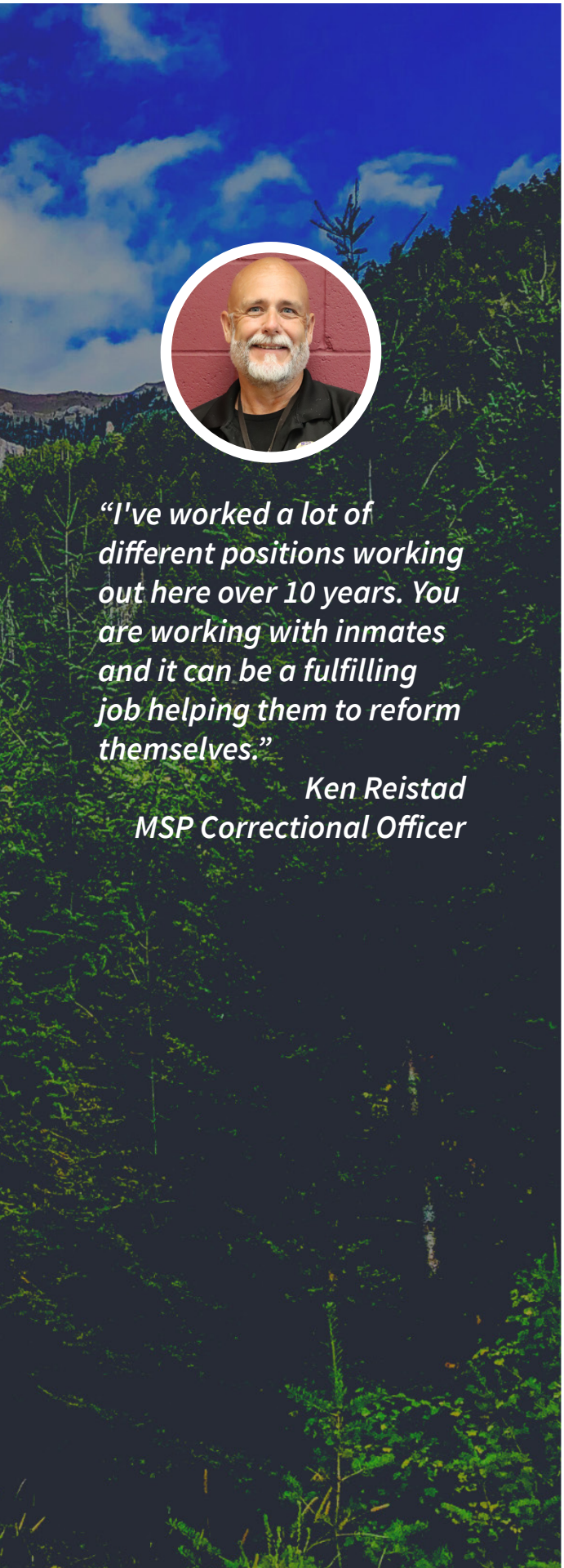


Correctional Lieutenant Rogers
Montana Women's Prison

"We're losing employees to local detention centers and law enforcement agencies for higher pay on a regular basis," Gootkin said. "We're hopeful that Montana legislators are supportive of the proposed pay increases because those will be helpful for retaining staff and attracting new employees to help us carry out the department's mission."

Beyond pay, the DOC is exploring solutions to assist existing and prospective employees with **housing-related challenges** including renting RV parking spots, renovating apartment space, considering construction of temporary employee housing, evaluating transportation assistance, and more.

To set a solid foundation for employee retention, the agency committed itself to **cultural growth** and contracted with



"I've worked a lot of different positions working out here over 10 years. You are working with inmates and it can be a fulfilling job helping them to reform themselves."

Ken Reistad
MSP Correctional Officer

DOC: Staffing Challenges cont.

consultant, Collaborative Safety, to facilitate that effort. Training began in 2022 at MSP and the department's Central Office, and other bureaus are scheduled to participate over the coming year. The goal is to promote solution-oriented thinking, resulting in a transition to a culture of accountability that allows for deeper discussion of underlying, systemic issues.

The DOC also hired a training manager to promote professional development of staff and ensure required training is received.

Ongoing recruitment efforts by the department include:

- Formation of a department-wide recruitment/retention team and an MSP-focused committee
- Online efforts:
 - o Social media campaigns
 - o Indeed, Corrections1, Job Service, Veterans Ascend
 - o Virtual career fairs and networking events
- Texting – conduct pre-interviews, maintain communication with candidates
- In the community – career fairs, class presentations, Transition Assistance Program (military), hiring events
- Native American – tribal college fairs, tribal contacts





REHABILITATION AND PROGRAMS DIVISION

The foundation for the newly created Rehabilitation and Programs Division (RPD) of the Montana Department of Corrections was laid in the fall of 2021 as Director Brian Gootkin identified public safety and rehabilitation as the DOC's two areas of focus.

The RPD is charged with:

Creating and helping manage a cohesive and collaborative continuum of care, advancement, and support for individuals including those:

- ***who have been impacted by crime***
- ***are incarcerated***
- ***are under community-based, step-down supervision***

Despite the continued concerns around COVID-19 in our communities and facilities, the RPD has improved service delivery, enhanced evidence-based programming, expanded community partnerships, and more, all with a fresh focus on continuity and efficacy.

Community Corrections Facilities and Programs

In response to community need and a shift in demand for services provided at the department's **WATCh East facility in Glendive,** the Community Corrections Facilities and Programs Bureau aided in the transition of the program to a privately run, community substance use disorder treatment facility.

"This move provided Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services, Inc. (CCCS) the available beds to begin delivering much-needed treatment options to rural residents on the eastern side of the state, including Medicaid recipients," DOC Director Brian Gootkin said. "Creating treatment opportunities in rural Montana is critical to diverting folks from the criminal justice system."

The facility, which is owned by the state, will be leased to CCCS, which ran the WATCh East program, a six-month correctional program for individuals convicted of felony DUIs. WATCh



East opened its doors in 2005, but had seen declining use with the concurrent expansion of Medicaid and felony treatment courts around the state.

The DOC will continue to operate its other correctional treatment facilities throughout Montana.

Health Services

The Health Services Bureau remained busy managing periodic COVID outbreaks at DOC facilities and delivering vaccinations to inmates who want them. However, the team also streamlined their operations in October 2021 by implementing a $1.06 million **Electronic Health Records (EHR) system** to replace hundreds of paper medical records.

"Previously, there were hundreds of charts in all areas of the DOC facilities," Health Services Bureau Chief Cindy Hiner said. "The Electronic Health Records (EHR) system allows an integrated approach to healthcare and brings all disciplines together to provide optimal health care to all our residents. After many years of medical, dental, mental health, programming and treatment charts throughout the facilities, all charts are located in one location—the EHR."

Along with establishing this more efficient method of serving patients, the Health Services team once again earned accreditation from the **National Commission on Correctional**



"In my 25 years with the state I've enjoyed learning from and working with great people. I have worked in both community and institutional settings having been a supervisor/ manager for over two decades, I am fortunate to have had the "teammates" I have had. My responsibilities have changed throughout my tenure but I sincerely care about my work product and the populations I have and continue to serve."

Matt Phillips
PREA Compliance & Safety Manager

Rehabilitation and Programs Division cont.

Health Care (NCCHC) at Montana State Prison by demonstrating compliance with NCCHC's Standards for Health Services in Prisons. The next accreditation cycle is in 2024.

"In achieving NCCHC accreditation, Montana State Prison has demonstrated its commitment to meeting constitutional requirements for health care for incarcerated individuals," said National Commission CEO Deborah Ross, CCHP. "Accreditation is a voluntary process and we commend the Montana Department of Corrections for successfully undertaking this challenge to provide quality health care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

Thanks to American Rescue Plan Act funding, Health Services also was able to implement greater use of **telehealth opportunities**. This provided patients with the ability to access a wider spectrum of health services without needing to leave DOC facilities, following with the department's pledge to ensure the health of the individuals under its care.



DOC MEDICAL CLAIMS COST

FISCAL YEAR	Number of Claims	Amt. Billed by Provider	Amt. Paid by DOC
2019	*34,218*	*$17,446,484.04*	*$4,554,970.31*
2020	*23,910*	*$18,399,352.18*	*$4,338,377.18*
2021	*25,299*	*$20,789,925.31*	*$5,373,963.05*
2022	*36,909*	*$23,412,405.00*	*$5,905,988.82*

Along with an aging prison population comes significant, health-related costs as demonstrated in the chart above. The chart represents the claims cost paid by the DOC based on the Medicaid cost reimbursement schedule.

Rehabilitation and Programs Division cont.

Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE)

This biennium, Montana Correctional Enterprises worked hard to expand its services to provide inmates under the DOC's supervision with opportunities to learn new skills to help them be successful in the future.

In 2021, MCE assumed direction of educational programming at Montana Women's Prison (MWP), bringing all education for the department under the DOC umbrella. MWP graduated its first Hi-SET class of five inmates in the fall of 2021, with a total of 12 graduates of that program in the past year.



Education services at MWP transferred to Montana Correctional Enterprises in 2021. This is the first class of students to graduate from the facility's HiSET program.

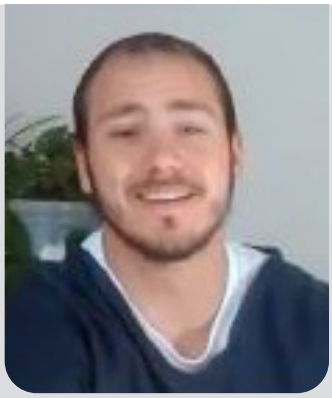
Thanks to the **Second Chance Pell Grant Program**, students in secure facilities under the supervision of the DOC gained the option of achieving their college dreams beginning in the fall of 2022. The program is offered in partnership with the Montana University System and the DOC.

The first group of 10 students from Montana State Prison began their course work through Helena College in August 2022 in the Certificate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology program.

"This is a great opportunity for people under our supervision to continue their education and improve their skills so they can have more employment opportunities when they leave our facilities," DOC Deputy Director Cynthia Wolken said. "We're excited to help these offenders fill the employment gaps in Montana with the skills they gain through training with Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) and now with additional skills from our collegiate partners."

A Pell Grant is a form of federal financial aid available to all students with financial need. Previously, incarcerated students in a federal or state prison could not access these funds. With a recent expansion of the Second Chance Pell Program, the U.S. Department of Education selected Great Falls College, Montana State University Billings, Helena College, and Dawson Community College to provide postsecondary instruction to incarcerated students through the DOC.

Ty Jensen, who completed the welding course at MSP, looks forward to taking the Second Chance Pell classes as he works toward his eventual dream of owning a fabrication and auto body shop.



"I believe it will be an essential part of my success," he said. "It'll help give me the skills and the ability to have a career and to stay out and never come back."

Also in 2022, the DOC launched **The Last Mile computer coding program** at Montana State Prison. The Last Mile's web development program teaches students to create websites and full stack web applications using industry standard technologies, including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Node, Express, and MongoDB.



Governor Greg Gianforte and representatives of The Last Mile program traveled to MSP in 2022 to celebrate the establishment of the program and the students of the inaugural class.

"The Montana Department of Corrections is deeply grateful for the opportunity to offer **The Last Mile coding program** at Montana State Prison," said DOC Director Brian Gootkin. "It is our mission to create a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment. TLM furthers that mission by not only providing participating incarcerated individuals with the skills to be successful upon release — graduates have a zero percent recidivism rate — but to fill in-demand posi-

Rehabilitation and Programs Division cont.

tions in Montana's growing tech industry."

Twenty-two students are enrolled in the inaugural class and the year-long training requires the inmates' dedication five days a week, 6.5 hours per day, with an end goal of attaining personal and professional skills that will make them highly marketable when they return to Montana communities.



Following the loss of its main dairy contract in 2021, MCE downsized its herd and replaced moos with chirps. In partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, MCE launched a **new pheasant-rearing program** in 2022.

During the 2021 Montana Legislative Session, lawmakers passed House Bill 637, which appropriated $1 million toward a new state pheasant rearing and release program.

"This will be another great program that can offer inmates job training skills through Montana Correctional Enterprises," said Montana Correctional Enterprises Bureau Chief Gayle Butler. "Our agriculture programs provide inmates and offenders with various transferable skills that can be used as they reenter Montana communities."



In mid-March, 700 hens and 70 roosters arrived at MSP. By the end of the fiscal year, 11,749 chicks hatched at the facility, and 4,300 birds were released in the fall. Seven inmates are operating the facility, with a goal of 15 workers. Another six inmates assisted with the building and retrofit of the barn.

The program aims to produce up to 50,000 birds annually for release to state wildlife management. One of the goals of the program is to engage youth in hunting, so some releases take place in the fall before the youth hunting season, while others occur later to increase opportunities for all hunters.

The Department of Livestock certified the DOC facility as a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) facility. As an NPIP facility, the birds are tested every three months for avian influenza and follow biosecurity measures to ensure birds and people involved in the program stay healthy.



Rehabilitation and Programs Division cont.

Quality Assurance of Evidence-Based Practices and Programs

In the spring of 2022, a DOC team traveled to Ontario, Canada to observe the evidence-based Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM) in action. When the group returned, they were ready to develop a plan to implement the programming at prisons in Montana.

In the next biennium, inmates at DOC facilities will be able to take advantage of this programming —ICPM, for males, and the Women Offender Correctional Program (WOCP), for females. ICPM and WOCP integrate multiple programs into one to address all criminogenic aspects of the Risk – Needs – Responsivity Model, allowing inmates to complete one program to address a variety of needs simultaneously and meet multiple judgement requirements.

Using these programs allows the DOC to ensure consistency and greater efficiency among facilities, and to use dedicated programming staff to facilitate all the modules.



A team from the DOC visited Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) in 2022 to learn more about Canada's Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM). The DOC is working to adopt and implement this model to address the criminogenic needs of offenders and decrease recidivism. This photo was taken outside the historical site of the Kingston penitentiary, the oldest maximum security prison in Canada.



Victim Services

As part of Victim Services' ongoing effort to provide the most effective support possible for victims, the team joined with Great Falls Probation and Parole officers, the courts, and service providers in the community to form the Domestic Violence Specialized Caseload team. The team's goal is to ensure offenders are adhering to guidelines, and create safer outcomes for victims, families, and the community.

Strategies being used by the team include:

- ***Concentrating domestic violence caseloads with designated P&P officers***
- ***Ensuring ongoing communication with the DOC's Victim Services team to provide support for victims***
- ***Working with the courts to implement strict requirements for offenders***
- ***Connecting offenders and victims with resources in the community***

P&P officers are regularly in the field checking in with domestic violence offenders, talking with offenders and victims (if they are residing together), visiting with new romantic partners, checking in at job sites, and ensuring offenders are participating in Batterers' Intervention programming.

This attention to program participation has increased Batterers' Intervention programming attendance by offenders from about 50 percent to 95 percent since the domestic violence supervision strategies were implemented, according to team members.

DOC Victim Liaison Monica Huffman is encouraged by the forward progress she has witnessed since the team's inception.

"I believe this will do what we intend it to do – reduce the number and severity of violent episodes in the homes where we are providing these services," she said. "It will improve the lives of offenders and victims of record or new partners and/or children."



MONTANA BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE

Mission Statement: *The Montana Board of Pardons and Parole is committed to a parole and pardon system that promotes fair and consistent decisions based on public safety, victim concerns, successful inmate re-entry and sensible use of state resources. Further, the board uses evidence-based strategies and technologies in decision-making to promote risk reduction; collaborates with available community and state stakeholders to promote positive reintegration; and implements policies and procedures that promote best professional practices.*

Throughout the last biennium, in addition to its important work related to the preparation for, and conducting of, parole/revocation/rescission hearings, the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) focused much of its effort on reviewing its operations and evaluating how it interfaces with stakeholders.

Early in the biennium, the board referred to a January 2019 report in which the Criminal Justice Oversight Council provided recommendations to the board to guide its work. Areas of focus included:

- ***Administrative rules***
- ***Victim services***
- ***Policy***
- ***Hearing data***
- ***Document imaging***
- ***Conversion of board records to the Offender Management Information System (OMIS)***

Data extraction, interpretation, and presentation were of high importance to the board, and in October 2021, BOPP was able to present statistical data on its website. Taking that commitment to data to the next level, the board completed a conversion of its records from hard-copy files to OMIS, and from OMIS 2 to OMIS 3. Thanks to the imaging and uploading of data to OMIS, stakeholders — like the Montana Department of Corrections — can access BOPP records in real time rather than requesting a hard file or copy to review dispositional information and scheduled hearings.

By organizing its data in this manner, BOPP was able to identify deficits in the data including missing future hearing dates, missing hearing types, and more. The board also reviewed the last five years of hearing data to address any content concerns. The creation of a data quality dashboard for the board to manage day-to-day operations and hearings has allowed for more efficient operations and improved reporting ability.

As part of the board's dedication to the collection of accurate data and putting it to productive use, BOPP invited the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) to discuss the findings of its revocation study conducted on behalf of the DOC regarding individuals on community supervision. CJI continues to partner with the board thanks to funding from Arnold Ventures. The institute's work, including the revocation analysis, is helping the board to make progress in addressing revocation trends.

Significant effort was dedicated to attaining accreditation through the American Correctional Association. To accomplish that, BOPP worked with the DOC's legal counsel to review and update Administrative Rules to comport with changes made in the 2017 Montana Legislative Session. These were published by the Montana Secretary of State on July 8, 2022.

Finally, the board improved its level of customer service in several ways. BOPP has been working closely with the DOC's Victim Services team whose members have been supporting victims through the process leading up to BOPP hearings and beyond. In addition, the board adopted newly created policy and updated an inmate orientation manual for the parole

MONTANA BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE

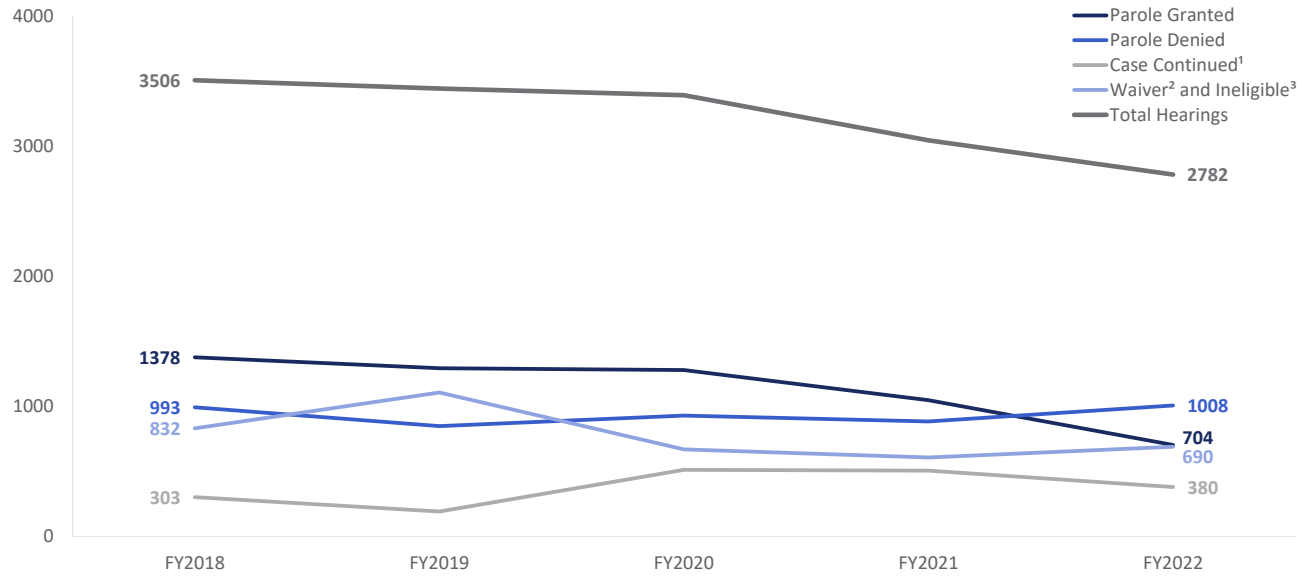
Steven Hurd – Chairman
Jimmy Patelis
Kristina Lucero
Darrell Bell
Brad Newman
Joseph McElroy - Chief of Staff

Montana Board of Pardons and Parole cont.

and executive clemency process. Not only will the manual assist inmates, but it will help the public to understand the process.

In response to the incarceration rate of Native Americans in Montana, and in turn, the number of Native Americans who come before the BOPP, the board hosted a training at MSU about indigenous identity and historical and intergenerational trauma. The presentation included research from Native American scholars about how to use a historical context to alleviate barriers and support healing from a holistic approach.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MONTANA BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE HEARINGS AND HEARING OUTCOMES, STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2022



[1]Case Continued: If an inmate refuses to waive due to their misconduct, (the Board cannot accept an unsigned waiver if they refuse), the case manager notifies the Board. In turn, the Board will send an inmate "Case continued" disposition articulating the reason and nature of circumstances. At that time, an inmate will automatically be scheduled for a hearing in 6 months. If an inmate would like to see the Board prior to said 6 months, a request can be made to the Board. Inmates may request to see the Board with legal counsel present during the scheduled hearing. The hearing will be case continued until legal counsel can be present (in most cases, legal counsel will notify the Board in advance) A continued disposition is rendered.

[2]Waived: If an inmate does not have clear conduct; is not ready to see the Board (examples include not completed programing; no parole plan) and is not interested in parole consideration, a waiver is sent from the case manager or inmate with an explanation to the Board. During Pre-parole school, institutional staff will identify the aforementioned. If the Board notices misconduct, and a waiver has not been sent, the Board staff notifies institutional staff of misconduct, and a waiver will be generated reflecting not having clear conduct.

[3]Ineligible:The inmate has not completed court ordered treatment or satisfied restriction by the Court. In these cases, the inmate is not parole eligible until such programming or restriction has been satisfied, rendering the inmate not eligible for a parole hearing.

Data obtained from the Montana Department of Corrections' Offender Management Information System (OMIS) on 12/01/2022.

Many variables have impacted increase or decrease of parole board hearings since the professionalization of the board. For example, inmate population; sentencing trends and types of convictions; board resetting violent and sexual offenders' reappearance date up to 1-6 years.

Parole grants and denials have been affected by revocation trends. It is important to point out the board no longer grants another parole at 120 days (clear conduct) after sustaining a new conviction or violation of parole conditions. In the last three years, the Board has denied parole 600 times in revocation cases, granted 195. Of the total of 795 total revocation hearings of the 600 denied, 526 involved new criminal conduct.

DOC EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED WITH **GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

Two individuals and one team of Montana Department of Corrections' employees were recognized in 2022 with Governor's Awards for Excellence.

"We're extremely proud of these employees for their willingness to go above and beyond to serve Montanans and make a difference for our offender population," said DOC Director Brian Gootkin. "They truly live by the department's mission to create a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment." Winners include:

Great Falls Probation and Parole Officer Michael Stimac – Officer Stimac was nominated for his actions in the early hours of July 15, 2021 when he responded with members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force to assist in the search and apprehension of an offender who was accused of kidnapping his significant other and shooting and killing her mother. Law enforcement located the suspect and a pursuit ensued ending on Highway 200 in Flathead County, eight counties away from where it began. Officer Stimac was assigned to stay with the victim in the incident once she was assisted from the vehicle, offering her much-needed support as she waited for additional services to be provided.

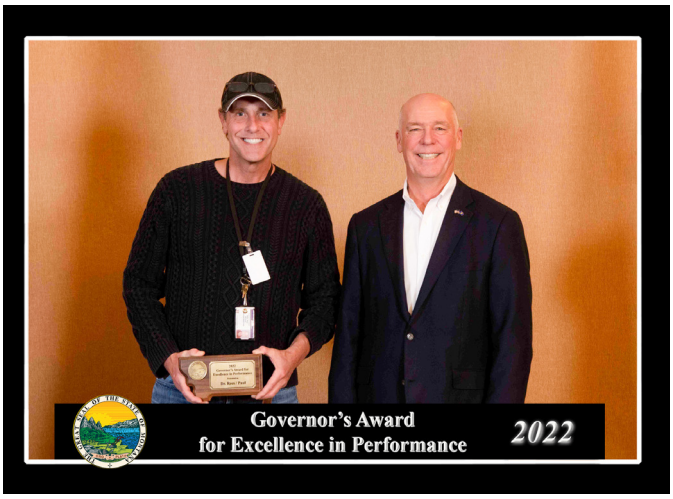
Dr. Paul Rees – Dr. Rees is known among his colleagues for his dedication to his profession and the patients he helps. Not only does Dr. Rees personally deliver patient care at Montana State Prison, but he nurtures strong relationships with community partners to make sure patients receive excellent emergent and specialty care when services can't be provided inside the prison. In addition, Dr. Rees is committed to sharing his knowledge with the next generation of medical professionals by mentoring physician assistant students and hosting their clinical rotations.

Domestic Violence Supervision Team (Heather Martin, Great Falls Probation and Parole Officer; Cory Purves, Great Falls Probation and Parole Officer; Monica Huffman, DOC Victim Liaison; and Jamie Rogers, DOC Victim Services Bureau Chief) – This team was nominated based on its innovative work to more effectively address the unique challenges posed by domestic violence offenders, and in so doing, support victims of this type of crime. By opening the lines of communication among stakeholders and facilitating closer collaboration, the team is being successful in interrupting the domestic violence power and control cycle.

Congratulations to all our DOC Governor's Award for Excellence winners!



Great Falls Probation and Parole Officer Michael Stimac



Dr. Paul Rees, Montana State Prison



Domestic Violence Supervision Team



SQUIRES RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD FROM GOVERNOR GIANFORTE



Governor Greg Gianforte recognized Montana State Prison (MSP) Registered Nurse Bruce Squires in the fall of 2021 with the Outstanding Service Commendation Award for coming to the aid of a correctional officer who was being assaulted by an inmate.

Squires worked for the Montana Department of Corrections (DOC) for more than 19 years.

"It's kind of overwhelming," Squires said about the recognition. "I've been working here for almost 20 years. I've seen a lot of emergencies. But this last one I felt like I was really able to help a person out. It really made me feel like my career is worth it and everything I put into it."

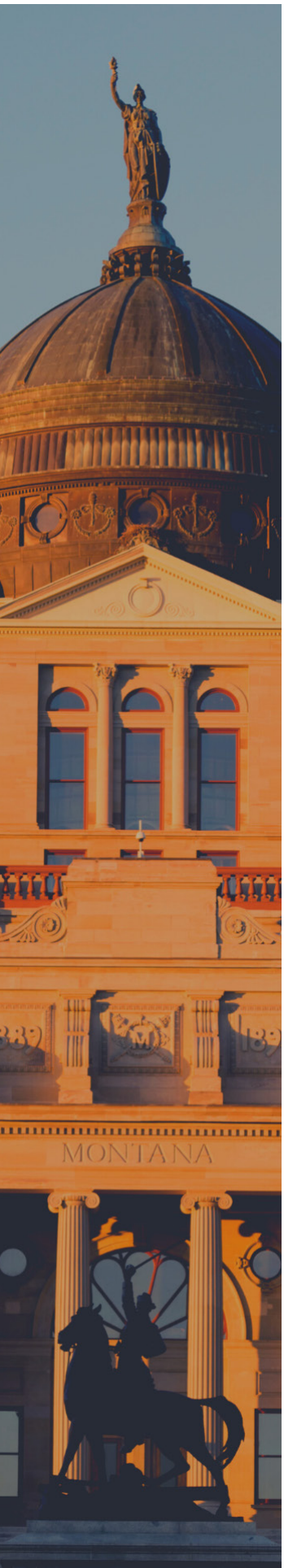
Earlier in 2021, as a correctional officer escorted three inmates to MSP's infirmary for treatment, one of the inmates attacked the correctional officer while the group stood in the infirmary waiting area. When he noticed the activity in the waiting room, Squires entered the room and helped subdue the aggressive inmate before he could cause more injury to the correctional officer. He administered medical aid to the officer and helped prevent a potentially more severe outcome.

"We're here at Montana State Prison to honor Bruce Squires as a nurse for going above and beyond in intervening in an altercation, and honestly saving a correctional officer's life," Gianforte said. "It was really my pleasure to come here and honor him today in the presence of his family to say thank you for his service to his fellow officer and to the state."

"Today was extra special," Director Brian Gootkin said. "Bruce obviously went above and beyond helping that officer and probably saving his life. For the governor to take time out of his busy schedule to give Bruce that well-deserved award is what it's all about."

"I've been working here for almost 20 years. I've seen a lot of emergencies. But this last one I felt like I was really able to help a person out. It really made me feel like my career is worth it and everything I put into it."

Bruce Squires
MSP Registered Nurse



DOC
BIENNIUM IN PHOTOS



In the 2022-23 academic year, the Second Chance Pell Grant pilot program allowed 10 students from four DOC facilities to take courses. The first group of students from MSP began their course work through Helena College on Aug. 29, 2022 in the Certificate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology program.



Members of the State Tribal Relations Committee paid a visit to Montana Women's Prison in Billings in July 2022 to experience firsthand the cultural opportunities available to Native American inmates at the facility.





The DOC fire crew was in the field for a week on August 2022 to help the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) fight a fire north of Clearwater Junction. The DOC works in conjunction with the DNRC to fight wildfires throughout Montana.



In 2021 the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office raided a quarter-horse breeding operation seizing nearly 60 horses displaying signs of neglect. The horses were relocated, with 36 horses coming to Montana State Prison for a second chance at life. Once it was decided that the DOC would take ownership of 15 of the horses, members of the cowboy crew began training them.



Inmates at DOC secure facilities have access to a variety of cultural and religious activities. Native American inmates at MWP can participate in numerous activities such as smudging ceremonies, traditional arts, sweat lodge ceremonies and drum circles.



Montana Correctional Enterprises' Nicole Chandler was recognized by the National Correctional Industries Association as the National Staff Award Recipient in April!



At Pine Hills Correctional Facility , an adult resident works on a car in the auto mechanic shop. If a resident has earned a high school diploma, they have options to take several vocational tech classes like auto mechanics.



Montana State Prison's Officer Don Cheney is DOC's first narcotic detection dog handler. Trey (narcotic detection dog) was trained by the Washington Department of Corrections Canine Training Program .



Montana State University student Josh Seidler, right, listens as Montana Correctional Enterprises inmate worker Billy LeMond talks about MCE's furniture production. 2022 was the second year a group of MSU students worked with inmate workers on their capstone projects.



In 2022, 50 inmates at Montana State Prison had the opportunity to brush up on their job-seeking skills at the Inmate Job Fair hosted by the DOC and the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). The joint venture included months of planning and involved volunteers from Montana businesses.



The DOC's recorded book program is an effort directed to making the holidays happier for the children of incarcerated parents. Inmates at MSP and MWP sign up to record themselves reading a story. The recordings and storybooks are delivered to their children to listen to and read along.



Thanks to the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale (BSOC), inmates at Montana Women's Prison enjoy unique opportunities to experience the healing power of music.



The Montana Department of Corrections welcomed two of its newest employees: Moxi, pictured left, and Athena, right. These two superstar employees reside in the Montana Women's Prison in Billings and Pine Hills Correctional Facility in Miles City as part of the DOC's new comfort dog program targeted at helping employees manage stress.



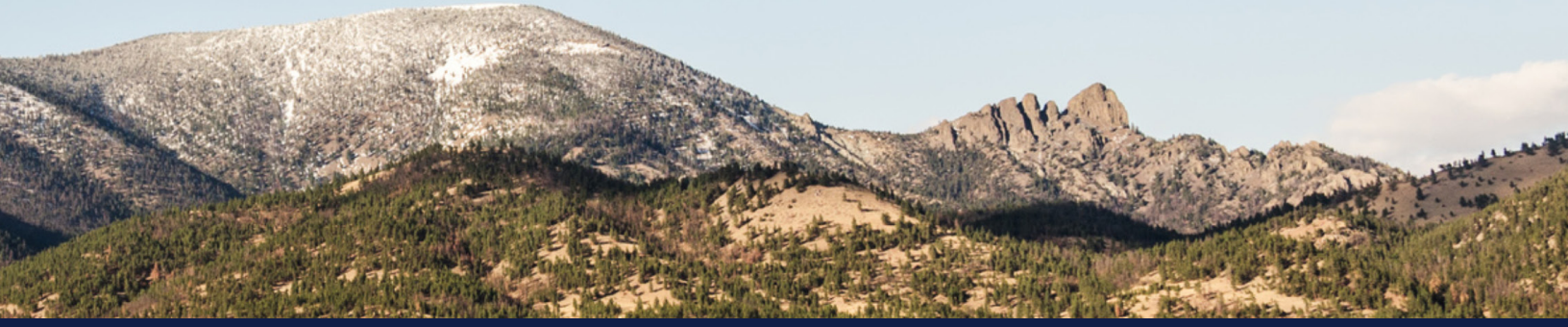
Lt. Governor Kristen Juras, members of the governor's staff, and legislators came by in March 2021, the DOC's Victim Services team brought in its Empty Place at the Table exhibit to the Capitol. Legislators and the and Governor's staff came by to learn more about the exhibit and DOC's Victim Services program.

The exhibit features place settings provided by victims and survivors of crime representing the loss of loved ones or some part of themselves as a result of a criminal act against them.





Montana Correctional Enterprises inmate work crews assisted with Deer Lodge's annual firewood giveaway in November 2022, at the Powell County Fairgrounds. Fifteen loads of wood were delivered throughout the Deer Lodge community and many community members participated in this event.



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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